

The Senate Ethics Committee offered the following substitute to HB 1141:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in government, so as to provide for the venue of certain actions; to provide for the payment of certain registration and other fees by persons who register as lobbyists; to provide for the establishment of such fees; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in government, is amended by striking Code Section 21-5-8, relating to venue, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 21-5-8 to read as follows:

"21-5-8.

Venue for prosecution of civil violations of this chapter or for any other action by or on behalf of the commission shall be in ~~the county of the residence of the candidate or public officer at the time of the alleged violation or action~~ Fulton County, Georgia."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by striking subsection (f) of Code Section 21-5-71, relating to registration of lobbyists, and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (f) to read as follows:

"(f)(1) Each person registering under this Code section shall pay the registration fees set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection; provided, however, that a person who represents any state, county, municipal, or public agency, department, commission, or authority shall be exempted from payment of such registration fees ~~and a person employed by an organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, as that code is defined in Code Section 48-1-2, shall be~~

~~exempted from payment of such registration fees except for payment of an initial registration fee of \$25.00.~~

~~(2)(A) The commission shall collect the following fees: for annual lobbyist registration and for the issuance of identification cards under this Code section. The amount of such fees shall be set by the State Accounting Office annually after consultation with the commission such that the total amount of such fees shall approximate the total of the direct and indirect costs to the state for registering such lobbyists, filing the reports by such lobbyists required by this article, providing identification cards to such lobbyists, and enforcing the provisions of this article concerning lobbyists for the year. In no event shall the registration fee exceed \$200.00 per year for any individual registered lobbyist. Additional registrations submitted by any registered lobbyist for any given year shall not exceed \$20.00 per additional registration.~~

~~(A) Annual lobbyist registration filed pursuant to this Code section~~
~~..... \$ 200.00~~

~~(B) Lobbyist supplemental registration filed pursuant to this Code section~~
~~..... 10.00~~

~~(C) Each lobbyist identification card issued pursuant to this Code section~~
~~..... 5.00~~

~~(D)~~(B) In addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, a filing fee of \$50.00 shall be imposed for each report that is filed late. In addition, a filing fee of \$25.00 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date if the report has still not been filed."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.